

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 197551

ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66011

DRAFTED BY S/S:DANDERSON

APPROVED BY S/S:DANDERSON

-----102671 191619Z/43

O 191606Z AUG 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 197551

NODIS

CHEROKEE

LONDON FOR STREATOR, PARIS FOR HARTMAN, BONN FOR STOESSEL,  
WHITE HOUSE ONLY FOR DR BRZEZINSKI

FOLLOWING REPEAT PRETORIA 4228 ACTION STATE AUG 19.

QUOTE S E C R E T PRETORIA 4228

NODIS CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1, 2, 3

TAGS: PARM, SF

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM

REF: STATE 197389, PRETORIA 4222, PRETORIA 4211,

1. I DELIVERED THE SECRETARY'S LETTER TO PIK BOTHA TO  
BRAND FOURIE AT 1400. AFTER READING IT HE SAID HE THOUGHT

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SECRET

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THE LOCATION DESCRIBED COINCIDED WITH THE TESTING SITE HE  
HAD MENTIONED YESTERDAY. TO MAKE SURE, HE PLACED A PHONE CALL.  
FORTY MINUTES LATER THE PERSON CONTACTED CALLED  
TO CONFIRM THAT THIS WAS A "MILITARY TESTING FACILITY."  
I ASKED FOURIE IF HE COULD BE MORE SPECIFIC ABOUT THE NATURE  
OF THE TESTING GOING ON AT THE FACILITY. HE THOUGHT THAT  
MISSILE TESTING WAS INVOLVED BUT PREFERRED TO CONSULT WITH

MILITARY AUTHORITIES CONCERNED BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO  
CHARACTERIZE THE SITE.

2. NOTING THE URGENCY ATTACHED TO THE SENDING OF A SMALL  
US TECHNICAL TEAM, I ASKED WHETHER I COULD EXPECT A RESPONSE  
WITHIN THE NEXT TWENTY-FOUR HOURS. FOURIE REPLIED  
THAT WITH THE PM OUT OF TOWN AND GIVEN THE NEED TO  
CONSULT MILITARY AUTHORITIES BECAUSE A MILITARY  
INSTALLATION IS INVOLVED, HE DOUBTED WHETHER A RESPONSE  
WOULD BE FORTHCOMING UNTIL EARLY NEXT WEEK. I POINTED  
OUT THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT THAT IT IS IN THE INTEREST  
OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS THAT THE VISIT TAKE PLACE NO LATER  
THAN SUNDAY, AUGUST 21. HE NODDED BUT MADE NO FURTHER COMMENT.

3. ATMOSPHERE TODAY WAS CORDIAL AND RELAXED. I ASKED  
FOURIE WHETHER BOTHA HAD CALLED OWEN ON THE RHODESIAN  
QUESTION AND HE SAID HE HAD.

4. DEPARTMENT PASS LONDON AND PARIS AS APPROPRIATE. BOWDLER  
UNQUOTE VANCE

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DEMARCHE, NUCLEAR WEAPONS, CAT-C, CHEROKEE 08/19/77, ALLEGATIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, NUCLEAR TESTS, NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 19-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE197551  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** DANDERSON  
**Enclosure:** DC IS ALSO X2-3  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** N770005-0127  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:**  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 2  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770843/aaaabjwp.tel  
**Line Count:** 82  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 7ad28457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN NODS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** NODIS, ONLY  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** NODIS, ONLY  
**Reference:** 77 STATE 197389, 77 PRETORIA 4222, 77 PRETORIA 4211  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1545947  
**Secure:** LOCK1  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POSSIBLE SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM  
**TAGS:** PARM, MNUC, SF, US  
**To:** LONDON PARIS MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/7ad28457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009